

OPERATIONS GROUP FILE

SECRET

R 131858Z APR 80

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD 1738

BT

EZ1:

SECRET STATE 098133

EZ2:

E.O. 12065: RDS-2 4/11/2000; (NEWSOM, DAVID)

TAGS: PINR, XR, ZP

SUBJECT: ESTABLISHMENT OF FBIS TECHNICAL UNIT

1. (S) ENTIRE TEXT.

2. NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL INTEREST IN IMPROVING INTELLIGENCE COLLECTION OF THE MUSLIM WORLD, PARTICULARLY THE "ARC CRISIS" AREA OF THE MIDDLE EAST, HAS GENERATED ADDITIONAL TASKING OF FBIS (FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE) OPEN SOURCE COLLECTION ACTIVITIES IN THAT AREA. CONGRESS HAS SUPPORTED THIS NEED WITH A SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION.

3. PART OF THE FBIS PLAN IS TO ESTABLISH A SMALL TECHNICAL UNIT IN ISLAMABAD TO RECORD AND FEED BROADCASTS OVER COMMERCIAL VOICE LINES TO A RADIO MONITORING UNIT AT ITS LONDON BUREAU WHERE THE MATERIAL WOULD BE TRANSLATED. THIS WOULD PROVIDE FULL COVERAGE OF AFGHANISTAN DOMESTIC SERVICES, IMPROVED COVERAGE OF THE EASTERN AND NORTHERN IRANIAN REGIONAL RADIOS AND COVERAGE OF SIX SOVIET CENTRAL ASIAN RADIOS IN RUSSIAN AND VERNACULAR LANGUAGES. THE RECEPTION OF THESE RADIOS AT ISLAMABAD WAS CONFIRMED BY THE FBIS TECHNICAL SURVEY AT ISLAMABAD EARLY IN 1979.

4. UNLIKE FBIS' PREVIOUS PROPOSAL REGARDING ISLAMABAD, THIS WOULD NOT INVOLVE ESTABLISHMENT OF A BUREAU AND MAY NEED ONLY INFORMAL COORDINATION WITH PAKISTAN AUTHORITIES. FBIS ENVISAGES USING A SINGLE ROOM WITH MODEST ANTENNAS, SENDING THE SIGNAL OVER A COMMERCIAL CIRCUIT TO LONDON. FBIS COULD AGREE TO PROVIDE PAKISTANI AUTHORITIES THE TRANSLATED "TAKE" FROM THIS PROCESS BY TELETypING IT BACK TO ISLAMABAD. FBIS WOULD ASSIGN ONE U.S. STAFF (SUPPLEMENTING HIM WITH TWO FN STAFF) FOR RECORDING AND FEEDING PROGRAMS. FBIS WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS THIS PROJECT WITH AMB HUMMEL DURING HIS FORTHCOMING CONSULTATIONS.

5. WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR EARLY RESPONSE TO THIS PROPOSAL.
CHRISTOPHER

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State Dept. review completed

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